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MINUTES OF THE GEOGRAPHIC RESEARCH AREA STAFF MEETING, 29 APRIL 1957

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PRESENT: [REDACTED]

1. Geographic Memoranda

The AD has approved GM-3 and sent it to AD/CI for comments, restating the objectives of the series in his covering memo. No further check-outs of this kind are anticipated.

2. St/C Holdings of NIS

A separate file of manuscript sections of the NIS will no longer be kept in St/C. The ORR Daily Diary will continue to note their availability in OBI via St/I.

3. AD's Trip

According to the final version of this trip, the AD will depart 16 May and return on or about 25 June.

4. Budget

Division Chiefs were asked to be on hand during the annual budget period -- roughly 15 May to the end of June. Advance thought should be given to travel, space, and other perennial subject matter.

5. Competitive Promotion Program

An ORR regulation on this subject is under preparation by St/A, and will be given further consideration by the Career Service Board/ORR.

6. Information Control

Tentatively, [REDACTED] will handle the Southern Asia desk of Procurement Branch, D/GL; [REDACTED] has assumed charge of the operation of Information Control Unit on an acting basis.

7. Monaco Hydrographers' Meetings

[REDACTED] will attend these meetings, beginning 6 or 7 May, as a member of the U.S. delegation.

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8. New Chief of R Area, State Department

Hugh Cummings, formerly Ambassador to Indonesia, will replace W. Parke Armstrong as head of R Area, State Department.



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10. Security

D/CG noted that it has completed nearly three years without a detected security violation.

11. Staff Meetings

D/GP reported that regular staff meetings have been initiated in the Division. In addition, substantive discussion meetings open to all personnel are now held on a weekly basis.

12. Psychological Testing and Advisory Services

The group briefly discussed the psychological testing and advisory services provided by the Assessment and Evaluation Staff, OTR. Supervisors may secure the help of this staff in assessing employees and choosing assignments by calling Ext. 8052. Most assistance is based on interpretation of the standard testing battery that is given all new employees. Special assessments may also be arranged.

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*13. ██████ to Prague

D/GL is attempting to secure approval for this TDY from Security and DD/P. The trip is scheduled for the first part of June and will involve the same procurement and exchanges exploration as recent TDY in Warsaw. ██████

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*14. Security Consciousness in Contacts with State Department Geographers and Geographic Attaches

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██████ reported that Dr. Percy and other geographers in State Department have shown more than a need-to-know awareness of activities in the GEA. The group agreed that GEA personnel should be cautioned about what they discuss; also, that a reaffirmation of the Agency's concern in the security of the information passed to the State Department should be made to ██████ and his colleagues.

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